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Summary record of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 March 2005, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Swe ..... (Myanmar)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.30 a.m.

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/59/19 and A/C.4/59/L.19)

1. **The Chairman** recalled that, in its resolution 58/315, the General Assembly had decided that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field. The Special Committee's proposals, recommendations and conclusions were contained in paragraphs 22 to 154 of its report (A/59/19). The Committee's attention was also drawn to the draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" (A/C.4/59/L.19).

2. **Mr. Issa** (Egypt), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introducing the report of the Special Committee (A/59/19), as well as draft resolution A/C.4/59/L.19, drew the attention of the Committee to two typographical errors in the report. In the second line of paragraph 47 of the report, the words "such as" should be deleted, and in the third line of paragraph 121, the word "should" should be replaced by the word "may".

3. The report emphasized the guiding principles that remained essential for peacekeeping operations. With respect to strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations, the Special Committee supported all efforts to ensure the rapid deployment capability of the United Nations, but believed that further consideration of the Secretary-General's strategic reserve initiative was required before firm conclusions could be reached. With regard to the conduct and discipline of peacekeepers, the report stressed the importance of the accountability of individuals responsible for acts of gross misconduct and the necessity of the United Nations continuing its zero tolerance policy. However, it also stressed the importance of full transparency between the United Nations and the relevant troop-contributing country regarding the outcome of investigations into misconduct relating to nationals of the country concerned.

4. In its report the Special Committee dealt in the strongest terms with the issue of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee would address the issue further at the resumed session to be held after the Secretary-General issued his report on the matter. With regard to safety and security, the report condemned the killing of military and civilian officers of several peacekeeping missions, and stressed the importance of greater coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security.

5. The report stressed the importance of improving the relationship between the troop-contributing countries and all other entities involved in planning, mandating and managing peacekeeping operations, particularly the Secretariat and the Security Council, through direct consultations, before the establishment or renewal of mandated peacekeeping missions, and also through the Security Council Working Group on peacekeeping operations. With respect to strategies for complex peacekeeping operations, the report recognized that peacekeeping operations had become multidimensional in nature and that the commitment of all United Nations agencies and specialized agencies was therefore essential, as was the development of coherent strategies based on lessons learned and of well-defined exit strategies.

6. Addressing the rule of law, the report recognized that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment required that the causes of conflict should be addressed and that local rule of law capacities should be strengthened, and that a United Nations peacekeeping mission might be mandated to provide advice and assistance in that regard. While bearing in mind the primary role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee recognized the unique and complementary role that could be played by regional arrangements, and therefore called on the Secretariat to explore further the advancement of cooperation between the United Nations and such arrangements. With regard to the enhancement of African peacekeeping capabilities, the Special Committee welcomed the Secretary-General's report, contained in document A/59/591, and recognized the need to address the systemic constraints identified by African Member States in that regard.

7. **The Chairman** said that he had been informed that draft resolution A/C.4/59/L.19 had no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.4/59/L.19 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.